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08/556,516, filed November 13, 1995, now U.S. Pat. No. 5,603,721 which is a division of U.S. Serial No. 08/281,790, filed July 28, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,514,154, which

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 2-24 without prejudice.

Please add the following new claims:

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~~25~~. A method of chemically etching a serpentine pattern on a metallic member to form an intravascular stent, comprising:

applying a coating resistive to chemical etching to a metallic surface of the metallic member;

selectively removing portions of the resistive coating form the metallic surface thereby providing exposed portions of the metallic surface and protected portions of the metallic surface, the protected portions of the metallic surface forming the serpentine pattern;

exposing the metallic surface to a chemical etchant solution thereby removing all of the exposed portions of the metallic surface; and

means for removing the resistive coating and polishing the metal surface to provide a uniform surface finish thereby forming the serpentine pattern of the stent.

~~26~~ 2. The method of claim ~~25~~ 1, wherein the step of removing the resistive coating is performed by a laser.

Express Mail No. EM375441217US
Docket No. 42595 (3808.2)

18

B2 cont

3 ~~27.~~ The method of claim 2 ~~26,~~ wherein the laser is operated in a pulsed mode for removing the resistive coating.

4 ~~28.~~ The method of claim 3 ~~27,~~ wherein the pulse length time is about .3 mS.

5 ~~29.~~ The method of claim 2 ~~26,~~ wherein the laser is operated so that it removes only the resistive coating, and not the metallic surface of the metallic member.

6 ~~30.~~ The method of claim 1 ~~25,~~ wherein the metallic surface of the metallic member, prior to the step of applying the resistive coating, is flat.

7 ~~31.~~ The method of claim 1 ~~25,~~ wherein the metallic surface, prior to the application of the resistive coating, is curved.

8 ~~32.~~ The method of claim 1 ~~25,~~ wherein the means for removing the resistive coating and polishing the metallic surface includes electrochemically polishing the metallic member in an acidic aqueous solution.

19